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ALLARD EXPRESSES DISAPPOINTMENT OVER SENATOR NICKLES RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT SAYS OKLAHOMA LAWMAKERS LEADERSHIP WILL BE MISSED

Washington, D.C. – Colorado U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) expressed his disappointment regarding Tuesday's announcement by Senator Don Nickles (R-OK) not to seek re-election for a fifth term.

"I am disappointed that Senator Nickles has decided to end his distinguished career in the United States Senate. His contributions both to his home state of Oklahoma and the nation through his years of public service are immeasurable," said Allard. "Chairman Nickles has been a strong and consistent leader in the Senate, especially on fiscal issues and he will be missed."

Nickles, career in public service began with his election in 1978 to the Oklahoma State Senate, where he served two years. In 1980 -- at age 31 -- Nickles was elected to the U.S. Senate. And in 1998, he became the first Oklahoma Republican ever elected to a fourth term in the U.S. Senate.

Senator Nickles became chairman of the Budget Committee at the beginning of the 108th Congress. He also serves on the Senate Finance Committee, Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Rules and Administration Committee.